About the Institute

The mandate of the Educational Research Institute of British Columbia (ERIBC) is to improve education through research. To achieve this, the Institute provides a wide range of educational research services and supports an internal research program as well as visiting fellows to ERIBC. The main purpose of ERIBC is to bridge the gap between the generation and application of knowledge in educational practice.

The Institute's major activities are:

- to provide educational research and evaluation services;
- to provide test development and test scoring services;
- to engage in research projects initiated by the Institute;
- to disseminate findings of research;
- to provide research consultation in areas of testing, evaluation and research methods; and
- to fund research projects through a grants program.

As an independent agency concerned with education, the Institute is well-suited to direct systematic attempts to improve education through such activities. ERIBC is one of the largest professional groups in Canada which provides testing services. The Institute is completely self-supporting with revenues generated through contractual services.

ERIBC is governed by a Board of Directors which includes representatives of the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, B.C. Home and School Federation, B.C. Association of Colleges, Association of B.C. School Superintendents, Federation of Independent School Associations, B.C. Federation of Labour, and the general public.

The Institute was chartered as an independent educational research institute in May 1967. Clients include schools and school districts within B.C. and other provinces; the B.C. Ministry of Education; other provincial Ministries of Education; departments of the Federal government; international educational institutions, as well as a range of public service agencies and private organizations whose activities include educational programs and testing.

1984-1985 ANNUAL REPORT

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

86-0500/

Chairman's Report

Dr. Walter Muir

Annual Report 1984-85

The past fiscal year in report (April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985), has been exciting and eventful for the Institute. A wide range of activities has kept the staff busy and productive in providing services in support of educational research, testing and evaluation to clients at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

During some 14 years of association with ERIBC, I have witnessed its thoughtful development into a powerful research organization with an outstanding reputation founded on an ability to apply the latest in technology to the problems at hand. This reputation has spread far beyond British Columbia to the rest of Canada, and internationally as well.

It is important to reiterate that through a conscious effort to respond to the needs of a range of clients in a cost-effective manner and to streamline Institute operations, the Institute has weathered the financial uncertainty of the provincial restraint program in education.

There is however, a matter of grave concern regarding the future of ERIBC which must be brought to your attention. In May of this year, the Ministry of Education, one of the major contractors of ERIBC's services, informed the Institute that it planned to develop its own facilities for the optical scanning and data processing of the Provincial Grade 12 Examinations. This change in the Ministry's procedures, which will become effective on October 1 of this year, will have a critical impact on the viability of the ERIBC Testing Service. The Testing Service was developed by ERIBC with the encouragement and support of the Ministry to serve the test-scoring and data processing needs of all segments of education in B.C., including the Ministry itself. This unexpected loss of its important client clearly places the Testing Service, and indeed the Institute, in a position of jeopardy.

This action by the Ministry of Education, it should be noted, follows by one year the Ministry's decision to withdraw its annual non-statutory grant to the Institute that had been in place since 1973. The impact of that decision on the financial well-being of ERIBC, while dramatic, had been somewhat cushioned by the revenues received from the Grade 12 Examinations Program contract. With that contract no longer available, all who are interested in the work of the Institute will recognize that its financial position has been severely weakened, and its long-term survival placed in doubt. While every effort will be made to accommodate to this most unfortunate turn of events, it does add a very serious note to the tone and substance of this Annual Report.

ERIBC is unique in Canada and the contributions it makes to the field of education in B.C., and beyond, are truly remarkable. When the modest size of the Institute is considered in relation to the broad range of activities it is engaged in, the role played by ERIBC is even more impressive. A sincere vote of appreciation, therefore, must go to the Executive Director, to the Professional Staff and to the Support Staff for their commitment and dedication to providing these important services to the educational community.

In concluding, I wish to express my own appreciation to the Board of Directors for its support during the past year. The thoughtful and concerned guidance that the Board provides has been crucial to the orderly development of the Institute over the years. The Directors, who serve without remuneration, give the Institute a quality of leadership that any large corporation would be pleased to have. I have appreciated the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors during the past two years and look forward to my continued association with ERIBC.

Dr. Walter Muir
Chairman

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Educational Research Institute of British Columbia

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

for the twelve month period ended March 31, 1985

REVENUE		
Research Services	1,606,864	
Other	143,822	
		$1,750,6
EXPENDITURES		
Research Grants	$ 12,958	
Research Services	1,052,777	
Institute Operations	681,314	
		$1,747,04
EXCESS OF REVENUE FOR THE PERIOD	$ 3,637	
Funds Available — April 1, 1984	428,302	
Funds Available — March 31, 1985	431,939	
Less Contingency Operating Fund	410,000	
NET FUNDS AVAILABE		$ 21,939

This condensed statement has been taken from the financial statements and report dated May 13, 1985, prepared by Ellis, Foster and Company, Chartered Accountants, auditors for the Institute. A full statement of audit is available for examination at the offices of the Educational Research Institute of British Columbia.

Board of Directors 1984-85

Chairman
Dr. Walter Muir
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University of British Columbia

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Mr. John E. Pierce

Litho'd in Canada

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Audrey Sojonky

Annual Report 1984-85

The eighteenth year of operation of the Educational Research Institute of British Columbia (ERIBC) was particularly significant in that it marked the first year since its establishment in 1967 that the Institute operated without any outside grant support, most notably the non-statutory government grant which was terminated in March 1984. It should be underscored, that owing to its strong financial performance in its previous fiscal year, 1983-84, the Institute was able to withstand the withdrawal of government grant support during the subsequent year, 1984-85.

While our 1984-85 year end financial position was not as strong as the previous year's record performance, the results remained positive. This was largely attributable to two activities, these being: our new marketing efforts to establish a broader client base for ERIBC services, and, our increased level of contracts among which was our extensive participation in contracts for large-scale testing programs for the Ministry of Education including the 1984 Reading Assessment, the 1985 Mathematics Assessment and the Provincial Grade 12 Examinations program in 1984 and 1985.

With respect to other program activities in 1984-85, I am pleased to highlight a number of important activities and achievements. A noteworthy development in the past year was the international recognition of the high quality services available at the Institute. Along with a group of other B.C. educators, ERIBC staff provided research consultation for an examination system to the Universitas Terbuka (UT) in Indonesia in establishing a new, distance education institution. The UT opened its doors to 57,000 students in September 1984 and the projection for enrolment is 300,000 within five years. Participation in this exciting new endeavour has demonstrated the calibre of expertise that has been developed at the Institute and which can now be shared with other countries.

Within the province, the Institute continued to provide cost-effective services to a variety of clients. The ERIBC Testing Service is particularly noteworthy in that it provided scanning, scoring and report generation for standardized testing programs to a significant number of school districts within the province. School districts from other western Canadian provinces also accessed these efficient testing services. The English Placement Test (EPT) service continued to provide post-secondary institutions in B.C. with an effective instrument for placing students in first year English courses.

In other areas, ERIBC undertook a major survey regarding the impact of the provincial government's restraint program in a large urban school district in B.C.; provided evaluation and research services to several departments in the federal government; developed scannable forms for an increasingly diverse client base for purposes such as surveys, questionnaires and data collection; and responded to many requests for proposals, a number of which were successful.

At the school level, ERIBC workshops on testing topics experienced a significant resurgence in interest and activity. With the increased emphasis placed on testing at the school, district and provincial level, ERIBC workshops provided an excellent source for the professional development of many teachers with respect to testing. In addition, ERIBC researchers developed a new workshop series whereby a "trainer of trainers" model is used in order to enhance and localize the professional development program in testing within a school district. These workshop series were acquired by a number of districts and the evaluation sheets of participants provided impressive testimonies regarding the effectiveness of these ERIBC programs.

The Institute was able to offer these school level services at cost through a contract awarded to ERIBC by the Ministry of Education for the provision of such services to school districts. Owing to this contract, ERIBC services and research consultation continued to be available and affordable to school personnel in B.C.

The Institute's staff also maintained their participation in major educational conferences provincially, nationally and internationally through presentation of papers, symposia and key-note addresses.

The ERIBC Grants Program awarded research funds in support of several developmental and applied

research projects, a listing of which is included in this report. Members of the Professional Advisory Committee on Research who volunteered an invaluable service to ERIBC in adjudicating grant proposals are also listed.

The Communications staff continued to supply information about the Institute to many interested callers and responded to over 1500 requests for grant-related publications. The Communications staff were also instrumental in developing new marketing strategies to inform professional associations and the private sector about ERIBC services.

While the Institute's financial performance over the past year was positive, that position must be placed in context. We began 1984-85 with a modest contingency fund. As noted earlier, while the government terminated its non-statutory grant to ERIBC in 1984-85, our potential loss in revenue was offset by the previous year's surplus, plus the large-scale testing contracts from the government in 1984-85 which were noted at the beginning of this report.

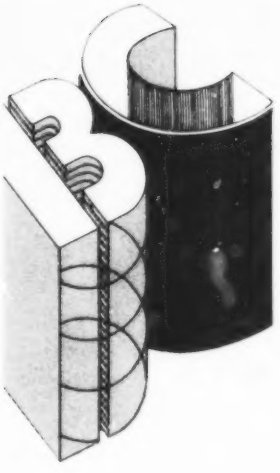
The government now appears to have changed its long-standing policy to award contracts to external agencies, notably ERIBC, for the operation of provincial testing programs. As is evidenced in this 1984-85 report, the ERIBC Testing Service contributes the greatest amount to the generation of revenue at the Institute. In the light of changes in testing procedures announced by the government, it is reasonable to assume that the fortunes and viability of ERIBC will be dramatically affected.

Without government support for the Institute in the form of grants or contracts, two possible sources of revenue remain; these are B.C. school districts and the private sector. With the continuation of the government's financial restraint program in education it is clear that school districts will be hard pressed to increase their current expenditures on ERIBC services beyond what they already are. By the same token, our experience in marketing our testing services to the private sector has been that this area will take some time to develop. Nevertheless, we intend to pursue these and other markets aggressively.

Over the years, many dedicated people, both former and present Board and staff members, and many organizations, including the Ministry of Education, have devoted considerable time, energy and money to the development of ERIBC. The Institute now stands as a unique and successful research institution in Canada. While the future of ERIBC appears foreboding, I wish to assure all supporters of the Institute that we shall continue to dedicate our efforts to maintaining ERIBC as a viable and dynamic organization.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of ERIBC for their continued support and guidance in the governance of the Institute. To the staff, I would again record my deepest thanks and appreciation for their invaluable contribution to the advancement of ERIBC. As we move into the nineteenth year of operation, I am confident that we shall all respond to our immense challenge with determination and success.

Mrs. Audrey Sojonky
Executive Director



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RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

Category	No.	Title	Project Director(s)	Amount
Administration	364	Private Funding for Elementary and Secondary Public Education in B.C. for 1983/84.	K. Salloum	**$850**
	365	The Impact of Rural Secondary Schools - A Follow-up Study.	D.A. Youngberg	**$600**
	366	Grade Repetition Study to Establish the Effect of Grade Repetition on Social Adjustment at the Secondary School and on School Competition with a View to Recommending a Retention/Promotion Policy at the Elementary Level.	W. Biegler C. Gillis	**$832**
Counselling	363	A Needs Assessment for Transition from Elementary School to Middle School in School District #69 (Qualicum).	B. Carpenter P. Gardner	**$850**
Language Arts	367	The Effect of Intended Audience on Language Functions in Written Argument at Two Grade Levels.	S.G. Craig	**$776**
Mathematics	369	The Development of Probability Concepts in Elementary School Children (K-7).	S. Higgenbottem	**$475**
Science	361	The Effects of Teaching - Learning Strategies on the Enhancement of Academic Achievement in Grade 9 Science.	E. Jordan	**$850**
	368	Development of the Attitude Toward the Subject Science Scale.	B. Krynowsky	**$500**
Special Education	362	The Educational Environment and Teachers Attitudes Towards Mainstreaming: A Comparative Study of Ontario, B.C. and Western Australia.	M.A. Winzer	**$710**
	370	Hyperactive Childrens' Awareness of Their Behavior Within the Classroom Setting: An Interactionist Perspective.	G.S. Matiaszow	**$850**
Teaching Methodology	371	English as a Second Language (ESL) Teachers' Perspectives on Teaching Cultures.	T. Defoe	**$800**

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Professional Advisory Committee on Research (PACR)

The Professional Advisory Committee on Research (PACR) reviews applications and makes recommendations regarding the funding of Major Grants. Members serving during 1984-85 include:

Mr. W. Anderson
Principal
South Wellington Elementary School
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo)

Dr. Roy Bailey
Principal
Southlands Elementary School
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)

Dr. Robin Brayne
Assistant Superintendent
Program and Development
School District No. 44
(North Vancouver)

Mr. Brian Ganske
Assistant Superintendent
School District No. 35 (Langley)

Dr. Joyce Matheson
Director
Learning Assessment Branch
Ministry of Education

Dr. Lloyd Ollila
Professor
Faculty of Education
University of Victoria

Dr. Norm Robinson
Associate Professor
Faculty of Education
Simon Fraser University

Dr. Gail Spitler
Associate Professor
Faculty of Education
University of British Columbia

Mr. Wayne Wiens
Teacher
School District No. 44
(North Vancouver)